

Message Text

SECRET

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71

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OIC-04 AEC-11

OMB-01 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 251821Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8315

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

S E C R E T BONN 15500

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

USNMR SHAPE FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: SOVIET VIEWS

SUMMARY. RUTH INFORMED EMBOFF OCT. 25 ON CONVERSATION
THIS WEEK WITH SOVIET EMBASSY (BONN) POL COUNSELLOR
CONCERNING MBFR. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS ON RUTH'S DESCRIP-
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TION OF SOVIET COUNSELLOR'S REMARKS ON MBFR DURING DIS-

CUSSION OF FORTHCOMING SCHEEL VISIT TO MOSCOW. RUTH IN-
QUIRED AS TO WHETHER US HAD ANY RECENT INDICATIONS OF
SOVIET MBFR THINKING. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY AVAILABLE
GUIDANCE CONCERNING RUTH'S QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET COUNSELLOR INQUIRED CONCERNING PRESS REPORTS
OF ALLIED POSITION IN GENERAL AND REGARDING FIGURES OF
15 PERCENT US/SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS AND CUTS IN
SOVIET TANKS IN PARTICULAR. RUTH SAID HE TOLD SOVIET
REP ALLIES DID INDEED HAVE COMMON POSITION BUT OBVIOUSLY
HAD NOT INFORMED PRESS OF ITS CONTENTS. WHILE PRESS
SPECULATION WAS INEVITABLE, RUTH SAID ALLIED POSITION
WOULD BE MADE KNOWN TO SOVIETS IN DUE COURSE AT VIENNA.
COMMENT: FURTHER DETAILED REPORT ON ALLIED POSITION,
CITING SOME ACCURATE FIGURES AND OTHER ASPECTS OF
WESTERN POSITION, APPEARED IN OCT. 22 BRUSSELS DATED
FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU REPORT BY ERICH HAUSER. RUND-
SCHAU REPORT BEING TRANSMITTED BY SEPTEL. END COMMENT.

2 SOVIET COUNSELLOR THEN ACKNOWLEDGED WESTERN ARGU-
MENTATION THAT DISPARITIES AND ASSYMMETRIES DID EXIST
BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FORCE POSTURES IN CENTRAL
EUROPE. SOVIET REP SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POINT ABOUT
GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES, AND THAT THIS "IMPORTANT MATTER
WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION." SOVIET REP
ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED NUMERICAL DIFFERENCES TO WESTERN DIS-
ADVANTAGE IN EAST-WEST GROUND FORCE RATIO. AFTER NOTING
WESTERN ARGUMENTATION CONCERNING ASYMMETRY IN TANKS,
SOVIET REP SAID OTHER FACTORS ALSO WOULD HAVE TO BE
TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AS
WELL AS DISPARITIES ASSERTED BY THE WEST.

3 IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, SOVIET REP SAID THE
"FUNCTION OF FORCES" ALSO WAS IMPORTANT. HE ADVANCED
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THE ARGUMENT THAT SOVIET FORCES CONSTITUTED, INTER ALIA,
A STABILIZING ELEMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE. SOVIET REP
THEN CITED SOVIET FORCE PRESENCE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS
AN EXAMPLE OF "CONTRIBUTION TO STABILITY."

4 RUTH TOLD EMBOFF HE EXPECTED SOVIETS WOULD ADVANCE
POSITION IN PARA 4 ABOVE AS WELL AS
OTHER ARGUMENTS, SUCH AS THOSE EARLIER DEVELOPED BY

SOVIET MBFR EXPERT KOSTKO (WORLD BALANCE OF FORCES, ETC.
IN ORDER TO COUNTERACT WESTERN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE
"BALANCED" MBFR AGREEMENT. IN THIS RESPECT, RUTH ALSO
EXPECTED SOVIETS TO MAKE USE OF FREQUENT WESTERN GOVERN-
MENT STATEMENTS TO PARLIAMENTS THAT EAST HAD ADVANTAGE
IN NUMBERS BUT NATO STILL MAINTAINED CREDIBLE DETERRENT
AND DEFENSE POSTURE. RUTH NOTED IT LIKELY THAT SOVIETS
WOULD BUILD ON THIS ARGUMENT TO GO AFTER SUBSTANTIAL
REDUCTIONS IN WESTERN NUCLEAR FORCES DEPLOYED IN CENTRAL
EUROPE. IN THIS RESPECT, RUTH NOTED THAT SOVIET
REP PHRASE "FUNCTION OF FORCES" COULD HAVE AN APPLICA-
TION AS WELL TO FBS.HILLENBRAND

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